

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 IO-03 NSCE-00 NSC-10 INR-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10261

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PINT VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR 1, X PLUS 130, JUNE 7, 1973

FOL TEL SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON INFO CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB USDAO
SAIGON
BEING RPT FOR UR INFO.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 649

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 130,
JUN 7, 1973

1. SECURITY SITUATION

COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS INCREASED TO 17 INCLUDING 15
ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) WITH 577 ROUNDS AND 2 HARASSING INCIDENTS. WHILE ACTIVITY CONTINUED WEST OF HUE, MAJORITY OF THE
VIOLATIONS OCCURRED IN QUANG NGAI. 69 TH RANGER BATTALION IN
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MINH LONG DISTRICT QUANG NGAI PROVINCE TOOK BRUNT OF EFFORT,

WITH SEVERAL CONTACTS AND ABFS INCLUDING 130 MORTAR ROUNDS AND 20 75 MM ARTILLERY ROUNDS. ACTION INVOLVING 69 TH RESULTED IN 17 ENEMY KIA, 3 FRIENDLY WIA. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON QUANG NGAI SITUATION BEING SENT SEPTEL. CORPS- WIDE CASUALTIES WERE FRIENDLIES 9 KIA, 39 WIA ENEMY 56 KIA, 5 CAPTURED. THIS IS SECOND DAY OF UNUSUALLY HIGH ENEMY KIA FIGURES; ALSO FOR THE SECOND DAY SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ENEMY KIA WERE CAUSED BY TERRITORIAL FORCES. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 2124 ROUNDS, 414 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS 1710 SOUTH. AGAIN FOR THE SECOND DAY MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF ARTILLERY WAS FIRED IN SOUTHERN MR I.

2. GVN MILITARY ACTIVITY

PRRO QUANG NAM REPORTS THAT THE RF BATTALION CONTACT ON JUNE 6 (DANANG 640) WAS THE AMBUSH OF A LEAD UNIT OF THE VC V25 BATTALION (FORMERLY INDIGENOUS TO THE AREA) IN HIEU NHON DISTRICT AT BT 158553, DIRECTLY ACROSS THE THU BON RIVER FROM HOI AN. AS REPORTED, THE VC UNIT, WHICH WAS MOVING BACK INTO THE AREA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SOME MONTHS IN ORDER TO SET UP 60 MM MORTARS FOR FIRING INTO HOI AN, HAD 28 KILLED.

3. GVN ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES:

THE RECENTLY REMOVED DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION OF QUANG NAM, NGUYEN CHI THIEP, (DANANG 634, PARA 5) IS GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN. HE WAS THE SUBJECT OF A JUNE 4 ARTICLE IN SONG THAN DETAILING FURTHER CHARGES OF CURRUPTION, SPECIFICALLY IN COLLUSION WITH FERTILIZER AND RICE MERCHANTS IN DANANG. AT THE SAME TIME, PRRO QUANG NAM WAS TOLD BY QUANG NAM PROVINCE CHIEF VU TIEN PHUC, WHO HAD INSISTED ON THIEP'S DISMISSAL DESPITE DEMOCRACY PARTY INTERVENTION THAT REPORTEDLY INSTEAD OF BEING DEMOTED THIEP HAS BEEN GIVEN A FAIRLY HIGH OFFICE IN DP HEADQUARTERS IN SAIGON. COL PHUC SAID THAT HE EXPECTS HIS FORMER DEPUTY AND FRIENDS TO TRY TO REMOVE HIM FROM OFFICE. COL PHUC ALSO CLAIMED THAT HIS CHIEF OF STAFF, LT COL SON, IS THE MOVING FORCE BEHIND THE DP IN QUANG NAM.

4. POPULAR ATTITUDES:

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IN IMPRESSIONISTIC CONVERSATION WITH KNOWLEDGABLE HUE RESIDENT CONGEN POLOFF CAME AWAY WITH THE FOLLOWING MIXED VIEW OF HUE ATTITUDES. HUE PEOPLE FEEL SOME DESPAIR AT CONTINUING WAR SITUATION AND RUMOURS OF IMMINENT ENEMY ATTACK ON HUE. MANY ARE TIRED AND DISCOURAGED TO THE POINT WHERE THEY SAY THAT THEY WOULD NOT FLEE IN THE EVENT OF A SUCCESSFUL ENEMY ATTACK ON HUE BUT WOULD BE RESIGNED TO LIVING UNDER ENEMY OCCUPATION. THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO THE FEELING THAT IF HUE

WERE TO FALL THE BLOW WOULD BE SO HEAVY THAT THE GVN WOULD BE WEAKENED TO THE POINT OF EITHER GIVING UP OR LOSING I CORPS, OR EVEN TO THE POINT OF LOSING CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO THE COMMUNISTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, AND IN ALMOST THE SAME BREATH, THE HUE- ITE DESCRIBED IN INCREASINGLY ANIMATED TERMS THE PREPARATIONS MANY FAMILIES ARE MAKING TO RETURN TO ANCESTRAL HOMES OUTSIDE OF HUE, INCLUDING THE INVENTORYING OF VALUABLE FAMILY FURNISHINGS WHICH HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO THE CITY AND WHICH WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE FAMILY HOMES UPON RESTORATION OF PEACE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE CONTRADICTIONARY ASPECTS OF THE TWO VIEWS THE HUE- ITE SHRUGGED AND SAID " THAT' S PART OF THE HUE NATURE".

5. ECONOMIC NOTE:

CONGEN POLOFF MAKING ROAD TRIPS TO AND FROM HUE JUNE 6 NOTED WHAT APPEARS TO BE DRAMATIC FALL- OFF OF ROAD TRAFFIC, PAS- Senger, COMMERCIAL, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. ROAD IS LESS HEAVILY TRAV
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